

## Comments and responses on the first public meeting to develop TMDLs for bacteria in Cedar and Licking Runs

### Comments from Pete Petursson

1. *"My name is Pete Petursson and I live at 3084 Catlett Rd, Catlett Va. My wife and I were not able to attend the July 1 public meeting about the Cedar Run TMDL but were interested in the results of that first meeting. Are there any minutes of the meeting available or anyone to speak with on this matter."*

The meeting materials and minutes are available on the DEQ website at <http://www.deq.state.va.us/tmdl/mtgppt.html>.

### Comments from Susan Trumbo

1. *"In the handout you provided at the Catlett meeting, there were charts of the DEQ monitoring data. Could you please email these charts so that I can better read the dates when samples were taken. I would also be interested in any other sampling data you have for Cedar Run and Licking Run."*

DEQ monitoring data are available on our website at <https://www.deq.state.va.us/webapp/wqm.homepage>.

2. *"I am writing to express my interest in DEQ's TMDL study as presented at the July 10, 2003, Public Information Meeting. As a citizen, I welcome the state's interest in cleaning our waters and improving our water quality. As an owner of land in Calverton, I have a direct interest in the results of your study. As a landowner, I am concerned that TMDL model best represent actual characteristics of the watershed."*

*"After attending your Public Information Meeting, reviewing the information provided at the meeting and on your web site, I am concerned by the disenfranchise of the Cedar Run and Licking Run watershed landowners. I wonder how the TMDL study can include the actual characteristics of the watershed without input from those who live in the watershed."*

The purpose of the public meeting on July 10 was not only to inform residents of the watershed about the TMDL project, but also to solicit their input on the project.

3. *"Norm Goulet, of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, appears to be heading the watershed study. At the Public Information Meeting, DEQ did not disclose who the Northern Virginia Regional Commission is and whom they represent. How can Mr. Goulet develop a program that is best suited for Fauquier County landowners when he is employed by a commission whose majority representation is Fairfax County? I am not questioning Mr. Goulet's expertise or professionalism. Acknowledging Mr. Goulet's expected allegiance to his employer, NVRC, I must question how he can review the data and develop a program best suited for Fauquier County."*

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) is a regional council of local governments in Northern Virginia. It is a public body created in 1969 by the Virginia Area Development Act and a regionally executed charter. NVRC encourages and facilitates local government cooperation in addressing, on a regional basis, problems of greater than local

significance. The Commission assists local governments in meeting their own problems by enhancing their abilities to recognize and analyze regional opportunities and take account of regional influences in planning and implementing their public policies and services. NVRC's member governments include Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties, the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park, and the Towns of Dumfries, Herndon, Leesburg, Purcellville and Vienna.

NVRC is uniquely qualified to develop the Cedar and Licking Run TMDLs based on its long involvement as administrators of the regional Occoquan Basin Nonpoint Pollution Management Program since the program's inception in 1982. Cedar Run is the largest tributary to the Occoquan Reservoir, which is a primary source of drinking water for Northern Virginia, and Licking Run is a tributary to Cedar Run. NVRC houses a rich repository of data sources relevant for developing both bacteria TMDLs. NVRC has ties to Fauquier County and Prince William County through its administration of the regional Occoquan Basin Nonpoint Pollution Management Program. NVRC staff also has an awareness of key citizens groups and other stakeholders that may have an interest in this TMDL.

4. *"A Technical Advisory Committee has been appointed to assist DEQ and NVRC in developing the watershed model. There is no representation of the stakeholders on this committee. Two citizens groups were given a voice, Citizens of Fauquier and Piedmont Environmental Council, neither of whom represent the interest of the watershed landowners. Why does the membership on the committee exclude the landowners of the watershed?"*

It is simply not possible for DEQ to approach individual landowners to get their input on the TMDL. We were not aware of any landowner groups whose representative might be included on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). If you are aware of such a group, we would be happy to include their representative on the TAC. In order to maintain a productive atmosphere for discussion, however, the membership of the TAC must be limited to representatives of major stakeholder groups. Individual landowners with a strong interest in the project are encouraged to attend the public meetings and to submit comments on the TMDL.

5. *The work to be done by the Cedar and Licking Run TMDL Program will have far reaching and long term effects on the residents and landowners. For the program to have support of the landowners and for successful implementation, there must be an opportunity for direct representation and direct involvement of the landowners. DEQ must include the landowners if the true characteristics of the watershed are to be gathered for the TMDL model."*

Again, this was one of the purposes of the July 10 public meeting. Based on the attendance at that meeting and the comments received afterwards, the public participation process seems to be working well.

#### Comments from Michael Markley

1. *"I was unable to attend the public meeting held by DEQ in Catlett, VA on July 10, 2003, concerning proposed TMDLs for Licking Run and Cedar Run in Fauquier and Prince William Counties. Therefore, I offer the following comments and request that the TMDLs be modified to address the issue and recommendation noted below.*

*Issue Statement: Water quality has a mathematical relationship whereby nutrient (and fecal coliform bacteria) reduction and addition constitute an equation with a resultant net value. It is improper for TMDLs to ignore the potential contributions from the application of biosolids in the Licking Run and Cedar Run segments. Biosolid load allocation data exists in VDH permit records and should be available for analysis without expense to DEQ.*

*Recommendation: It is recommended that the TMDLs for the Licking Run and Cedar Run segments evaluate the contributions of biosolids on nutrient and fecal coliform bacteria concentrations. TMDLs should quantify the total biosolid inputs to these impaired streams, independently of the segmented VDH analysis and permitting process. DEQ is requested to address explicitly in TMDL reports the contributions of biosolids to the impairment of these streams and to recommend a program of corrective actions to mitigate segment-specific issues and the broader issue of biosolid-induced impairment across the Commonwealth of Virginia.”*

Every TMDL begins with a detailed source assessment during which potential sources of the impairment are identified and quantified. Biosolids will be included as a source in developing the Cedar and Licking Run bacteria TMDLs.